



# ABN E-NEWS

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**Alabama Board of Nursing**  
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## A New Direction for the Alabama Board of Nursing

Peggy Sellers Benson, RN, MSHA, MSN, NE-BC

During this centennial year the ABN has embarked on a new direction that includes guiding principles, which are identified as 5 separate pillars of success. In the coming months, you will see improved communication with our licensees, dynamic changes to our website, and improved continuing education opportunities. The ABN encourages you to stay engaged, aware, and informed.

### LEADING IN THE NEW DIRECTION 5 PILLARS OF SUCCESS

- **Service:** Improved Communication and Increased Education
- **People:** Improved Collaboration and Inclusion
- **Quality:** Improving Internal Processes
- **Strategy:** Creative Problem Solving and Policy Formation
- **Financial:** Monitoring Fiduciary Responsibilities

## Collaboration Rule Changes Effective August 6

Charlene B. Cotton, MSN, RN

Significant changes in collaborative practice regulations, effective August 6, 2015, are the result of discussions initiated by the ABN with the Joint Committee for Advanced Practice Nurses and the Board of Medical Examiners (BME). The jointly-approved rules are available in ABN Administrative Code Chapter 610-X-5 for CRNPs and CNMs and BME Chapter 540-X-8. Among several changes, the new rules include these provisions:

- Eliminate 10% on-site collaboration time for CRNPs and CNMs who have **two or more years collaborative practice experience** consistent with physician's practice specialty.
- Increase physician's full-time equivalent (FTE) limit from three to **four** full-time CRNPs/CNMs/PAs, or combination of part-time positions, up to 160 scheduled work hours.
- Allow a transitional full-time position (40 hours) so a new CRNP/CNM/PA may join a practice and overlap up to 45 days for orientation with a departing CRNP/CNM/PA. With the 40-hour transitional allowance, a new CRNP or CNM may have 6 weeks overlap for orientation before the current employee leaves the practice. The physician's written request for this allowance must specify the starting date.
- Define parameters for prescribing "off-label" and in authorized clinical trials.

Existing "Definitions" (Rule 610-X-2-.05) were included at the beginning of Chapter 610-X-5 for better access. The rules affecting collaborating physicians are included in Chapter 610-X-5, so that the CRNP/CNM and physician are informed of their respective professional responsibilities. Physicians are required to submit the "Commencement of Collaborative Practice" form and fee to the BME. The physicians must notify the BME within 14 days of the date of termination of the collaboration.

Under the new rules, the physician's limit on CRNPs and CNMs in collaboration and PAs under the physician's supervision increases to four FTEs (160 hours weekly). Prior to this change, the total for CRNP and CNM personnel with one physician had been capped at 120 weekly hours (three FTEs). In practice groups with several physicians and several practice sites, a change for one physician could create a cascade of changes for other physicians and CRNP/CNM/PAs in order to keep each physician within the 120-hour limit.

There are several long-awaited changes in the Requirements for Collaborative Practice for CRNPs and CNMs with more than two years (4,000 hours) of collaborative practice experience. All CRNPs/CNMs must meet with the collaborating physician at least quarterly, but CRNPs/CNMs with qualifying experience are no longer required to be on-site with the collaborating physician for 10% of their practice hours. In the case of a CRNP/CNM practicing in a remote site, the collaborating physician must visit the remote site at least twice per year.

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**Collaboration Rule**  
**Changes Effective August 6**  
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On-site time with the collaborating physician is required for (a) CRNPs and CNMs with fewer than two years (4,000 hours) collaborative practice experience and (b) CRNPs/CNMs with qualifying experience who are moving to an unfamiliar medical specialty. They must be on-site with the physician for 10% of scheduled hours while accumulating two years (4,000 hours) of practice. In other words, if the experienced CRNP enters a new collaboration and does not have clinical experience consistent with the physician's clinical specialty, the "experience clock" resets to zero.

The revised rule for quality monitoring requires "a meaningful sample" of medical records. Quality outcome measures should be determined within the practice. The physician and CRNP/ CNM should review the results of the record review and summarize the findings.

Prescriptions and Medication Orders have new parameters for off-label prescribing if the collaborating physician agrees with the therapy, the pharmaceutical option is consistent with the current standard of care for treating a disease or condition, and supported by evidence-based research.

Please include the revised rules for Collaborative Practice in your next quality review discussion or collaborative practice staff meeting.

Questions may be directed to [Charlene.Cotton@abn.alabama.gov](mailto:Charlene.Cotton@abn.alabama.gov).



**Do you have questions, comments, or suggestions for future newsletters?**


**If so, please feel free to send us an email at [abn@abn.alabama.gov](mailto:abn@abn.alabama.gov).**




## An Introduction to the Members of the Alabama Board of Nursing

Peggy Sellers Benson, RN, MSHA, MSN, NE-BC


As we continue to observe ABN's Centennial Celebration, I'd like to take a moment to introduce you to each of the 2015 calendar year members of the Board:




E. Laura Wright, Vice President  
PhD, MNA, CRNA, Birmingham, AL




Francine M. Parker, President  
EdD, MSN, RN, Auburn, AL



Gladys Davis Hill, Secretary  
MSN, RN, Moundville, AL




Cheryl Bailey, Board Member  
BSN, MBA, RN, Cullman, AL




Alabama  
Board of Nursing


2015




Natalie Baker, Board Member  
DNP, CRNP, Madison, AL




Melissa Marie Bullard, Board Member  
LPN, Decatur, AL




LaDonna Burns, Board Member  
LPN, Northport, AL




Peggie Carpenter, Board Member  
BA, LPN, Tuscaloosa, AL




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PhD, RN, Mobile, AL




Jill B. Hightower, Board Member  
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Chrystabell King, Board Member  
LPN, Montgomery, AL



Helen T. McAlpine, Board Member  
EdD, Madison, AL



Amy Price, Board Member  
MSN, RN, Alpine, AL

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## **An Introduction to the Members of the Alabama Board of Nursing** *(Continued from Page 4)*

### **Francine Parker, EdD, MSN, RN—President**

Francine Parker received an ADN (1976) and BSN (1979) from Troy University Montgomery and MSN from UAB in 1988. Her doctorate in the department of Educational Foundations, Leadership and Technology at Auburn University was awarded in 2004. When Governor Bentley appointed Francine Parker to the Alabama Board of Nursing (ABN) 4 years ago, she became the first Auburn University faculty member to earn a seat on the Board. Now, as the ABN celebrates its 100<sup>th</sup> year, Parker has the honor of serving as Board President and working to accomplish our primary mission, to promote the safety and welfare of the public.

Serving on the Board and now as President has added much responsibility to Parker's already full plate. In addition to her teaching duties, she has been the Interim Associate Dean of the Auburn School of Nursing since June 2014, which will transition to a permanent position in Fall 2015. Although an administrative appointment is accompanied by substantial increase in responsibility, Parker has embraced the leadership role and is able to connect practice to theoretical foundations within the Leadership and Management course she teaches to senior students. "I believe the leadership skills developed over the 35 years of my nursing career, in practice and academia, have prepared me well for the role of Board President and Associate Dean. It is good for our students to see me actively involved in such an important agency as the Board. Role modeling life-long learning illustrates for students that faculty do not just talk the talk, but we are committed to service in our areas of expertise."

Parker began her career in nursing in 1976, joined the Auburn Montgomery School of Nursing in 1994, and became Auburn School of Nursing faculty in 2006, where she plans to stay until retirement, many years down the road.

### **E. Laura Wright, PhD, MNA, CRNA—Vice-President**

Dr. Wright received her ADN degree from the University of New Mexico Gallup Branch, her BSN degree from Regis University, and her MNA and PhD degrees from the University of Alabama—Birmingham (UAB). She has distinguished herself as both a CRNA and educator and is active in a number of professional and fraternal organizations, including the Alabama Association of Nurse Anesthetists (ALANA) and the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists. Dr. Wright is also an accomplished presenter and author and presently serves as an Associate Professor and Assistant Nurse Anesthesia Track Coordinator with the UAB School of Nursing. She serves in an Advanced Practice position on the Board.

### **Gladys Davis Hill, MSN, RN—Secretary**

Ms. Hill studied Pre-Nursing at Spring Hill College and completed her BSN degree at the University of Alabama, later earning an MSN degree from Mississippi University for Women. She has enjoyed a long and distinguished career in nursing and nursing education. Since 1984, Ms. Hill has served as an instructor and administrator at Shelton State Community College, where she has served as Assistant Dean of Health Services since 2004. In addition, she has contributed to the nursing profession through service and affiliation with West Central AHEC Board of Directors, "80 x20" Nursing Task Force, Program Evaluator for ACEN, Alabama College System Health Advisory Committee, Evaluator for Nurse Aide Certification, NACES Plus Inc., National League for Nursing, Alabama League for Nursing, and the Alabama Council of Professional Nursing Education. Ms. Hill is an active member of Weeping Mary Baptist Church. She is married to Jerome Hill and has two sons, Michael and Ellis. She serves in a Nursing Education position on the Board.

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**An Introduction to the Members of the Alabama Board of Nursing**  
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**Cheryl Bailey, MBA, BSN, RN**

Cheryl was raised in Birmingham, Alabama, and has lived in Cullman, Alabama, for the past 26 years. She earned her BSN degree from Auburn University and an MBA from the University of North Alabama. Cheryl has been an RN since 1988, working in Emergency, Maternity, Education, and serving the most recent 16 years as Chief Nursing Officer at Cullman Regional Medical Center. She has served on numerous committees and Boards, most recently as Past President of the Alabama Organization of Nurse Executives. She and her husband, Paul, have two daughters. She serves in a Nursing Practice position on the Board.

**Natalie Baker, DNP, CRNP**

Dr. Baker has been a nurse practitioner for 25 years. Her area of interest is caring for frail older adults in long term care settings. Dr. Baker is actively involved in local and national organizations, promoting evidence-based initiatives for this patient population. She is actively involved with the Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association, serving as the Chair of the Education Committee. She has published in peer reviewed journals and presented at national nursing conferences. Dr. Baker is the Coordinator of the Adult/Gerontology Primary Nurse Practitioner specialty track at the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Nursing and maintains a clinical practice at a long term care facility. She serves in an Advanced Practice position on the Board.

**Melissa Marie Bullard, LPN**

A native of Morgan County, Mrs. Bullard is a graduate of Austin High School and the PN program at Wallace State Community College. She is active in her church and community and serves as President of the Licensed Practical Nurses Association of Alabama. Mrs. Bullard and her husband, Dennis, live in Decatur. She has two children and two step-children. Mrs. Bullard serves in an LPNAA position on the Board.

**LaDonna Burns, LPN, WCC, DWC**

A native of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, Mrs. Burns attended Shelton State Community College, where she received her vocational credentials as a Licensed Practical Nurse in 1991. She is an expert in Wound Care and Diabetic Wound Care. Ms. Burns has lectured to numerous Medical Specialists on the topics of Wound Care and Diabetic Wound Care and was featured in an article in the District of Columbia Nurse Regulation Practice Magazine. Ms. Burns initiated the Southeast affiliation with the National Alliance of Wound Care Organization. She has been published in Wound Care Advisor Journal and presented at the 45th Annual WCON Society's Conference. She looks forward to continuing her work in Nursing and contributing to the health and welfare of the public. She serves in an AFLPN position on the Board.

**Peggie Carpenter, BA, LPN**

Ms. Carpenter has enjoyed a long and distinguished career in practical nursing and has previously served as a member of the Board. She presently works in staff development at Taylor Hardin Secure Medical Facility in Tuscaloosa. She serves in an AFLPN position on the Board.

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## **An Introduction to the Members of the Alabama Board of Nursing**

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### **Catherine E. Dearman, PhD, RN**

Dr. Dearman received her BSN degree from Mississippi University for Women, her MSN degree from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, and her PhD from the University of Mississippi. She has enjoyed a long and distinguished career in nursing and nursing education, including stints with Auburn University Montgomery and the University of South Alabama, where she rose to the position of Associate Dean. Dr. Dearman is the author of numerous peer-reviewed publications and successful grants and has been recognized with a number of professional citations. She serves in a Nursing Education position on the Board.

### **Jill B. Hightower, RN, MSN**

A 2006 BSN graduate of Samford University, Mrs. Hightower earned her MSN from Samford in 2011. She presently teaches nursing full-time at Samford while working flex at Princeton Baptist Medical Center in Birmingham. She and her husband reside in Homewood. Mrs. Hightower serves in a Nursing Practice position on the Board.

### **Chrystabell King, LPN**

A graduate of the R. B. Hudson High School in Selma, Ms. King has studied at Good Samaritan Nursing School, Presbyterian Hospital School of Nursing in Albuquerque, New Mexico, Troy State University, and Alabama State University. She has enjoyed a long and distinguished career in nursing, with expertise in Geriatrics. She serves in an LPNAA position on the Board.

### **Helen T. McAlpine, EdD**

Dr. McAlpine is a graduate of Talladega College, Jacksonville State University, and received a doctorate degree from the University of Alabama. She was named president of J.F. Drake State Community and Technical College in October 2000, previously having served as Assistant Superintendent of Huntsville City School System and in positions with the Gadsden City School System and Jacksonville State University. She secured federal/state funds to construct a Library/Technology Center, the first new building on the campus since 1981. Her leadership includes a new college instructional site in downtown Huntsville and the addition of many new programs, including culinary arts, electrical engineering technology, cyber security, and advanced manufacturing. Additionally, the college received SACSCOC accreditation in 2012, allowing students to transfer into colleges/universities. Dr. McAlpine's efforts to increase scholarship funding and professional training for faculty and staff have led to a number of grants awarded to the college by the National Science Foundation, NASA, and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. In September 2010, she was appointed by President Barack Obama to the President's Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities. She serves in the Consumer position on the Board.

### **Amy Price, MSN, RN**

Mrs. Price joined Coosa Valley Medical Center (CVMC) in September 2002. Mrs. Price is responsible for the clinical delivery and patient care activities on the CVMC campus. Prior to joining CVMC, she worked for Fayette Medical Center in Fayette, Alabama, as Director of Quality/Case Management. She has experience in Nursing Administration, Medical-Surgical nursing, ICU nursing, Emergency Department nursing, and Quality and Case Management. Mrs. Price was appointed to the Alabama Board of Nursing in 2009 for a four year term and was reappointed for a second term ending in 2016. During calendar year 2012, Mrs. Price served as the Board President. She holds an MSN degree from the University of Alabama, a BSN degree from Mississippi University for Women, and a Diploma in Nursing from Methodist Hospital School of Nursing in Memphis, Tennessee. Amy and her husband, Dale, live in Alpine, Alabama, with their two daughters Lily Frances, age 9, and Catherine, age 8. She serves in a Nursing Practice position on the Board.